



ASH CREEK ENTERPRISES, LLC  
2987 FAIRFIELD AVE.  
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605  
203-335-4842 VOICE  
203-335-4049 FAX

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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

If only for the sake of lowering the strident volume of the in-court dramatics, it is better for this lawsuit between the Department of Justice and Microsoft to have ended in a settlement. There has certainly been a lot of rancor from both sides during the course of this case.

I must admit, however, that there was an uncomfortable appearance that this trial was more about punishing Microsoft for having been successful at doing what it does than anything else. There were, of course, legitimate complaints about Microsoft's way of doing business that have been addressed by the settlement, such as Microsoft's legendarily rocky relationship with OEMs, but it probably should not have been part of the suit. Whether a company is perceived as aggressive in its marketing techniques, or as exerting unfair pressure is purely a matter of perception.

The settlement will hopefully suffice to end this divisive litigation, and I am writing in support of it. I am hoping that this sort of obnoxious litigation against any American company can be avoided in the future.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey James  
CTO/President